

What is claimed is:

1. A method of conveying commands from a terminal to a portable electronic object, every command having a header, and some of the commands having a data field, and responses from the portable electronic object to the terminal, some of the responses having a data field, and every response having a trailer, said method comprising the following steps:

interchanging transactions by means of a bus between the terminal and the object, each downlink transaction comprising successively a token packet transmitted from the terminal to the object, a data packet transmitted from the terminal to the object, and a handshake packet transmitted from the object to the terminal, and each uplink transaction comprising a token packet transmitted from the terminal to the object, a data packet transmitted from the object to the terminal, and a handshake packet transmitted from the terminal to the object;

encapsulating the header of each command in a data field of data packets of a downlink transaction, and the data field of a command, when such a data field exists, in the data field at least one downlink transaction; and

encapsulating the data field, when such a data field exists, and the trailer of each response in the data field of the data packet of at least one uplink transaction.

2. A method according to claim 1, in which each token packet contains an identifier indicating the direction of the transfer of the data packet succeeding it in a transaction.

3. A method according to claim 2, in which the token packet of each downlink transaction relating to the transfer of at least a portion of the data field of a command or of a response contains an identifier indicating the direction of the transfer of the data packet succeeding it in said transaction.

4. A method according to claim 1, in which the token packet of the first downlink transaction in a sequence of a plurality of successive transactions relating to a command or to a response contains an identifier announcing the beginning of the sequence.

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5. A method according to claim 1, in which the data field of a data packet in the downlink transaction containing the header of a command also contains the expected length of the data field of the response succeeding said command and/or the length of the data field of said command.

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6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the data field of a data packet of an uplink transaction containing the beginning of the data field of a response also contains the working length of the data field of said response, and wherein padding bits, whose number is proportional to the difference between the expected length of the data field of said response included in a preceding command and the working length, are contained in the data field of the data packet of the second uplink transaction containing the trailer of said response.

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7. A method according to claim 1, in which the beginning of the data field of a data packet in the downlink transaction containing the header of a command also contains an identifier of the format of the command.

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8. A method according to claim 1, in which the uplink transaction containing the data packet in which the beginning of the response is encapsulated is preceded by a downlink transaction in which the token packet contains an identifier indicating the beginning of an uplink transaction sequence, and wherein the data packet of said token packet has a structure identical to the structure of the data

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packet of a downlink transaction containing the header of a command, and contains an identifier for identifying the format of said response, and the expected length of the data field of said response.